

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (previously presented): An airbag device comprising:

an inflator for generating gas;

an airbag being expandable by gas generated in the inflator;

an airbag cover formed in a bowl shape, having a central concave part at a center of the airbag cover which indents a bottom portion of the bowl shape toward an interior of the bowl shape, and a plurality of cover pieces, for covering the airbag; and

a base plate for fixing the airbag and the airbag cover thereto,

wherein the airbag cover is openable outward at the time of expansion of the airbag caused by gas from the inflator, wherein the airbag cover has tear lines formed between the plurality of cover pieces which facilitate the opening of the airbag cover at the time of expansion of the airbag, and wherein the cover pieces each have an attachment piece respectively fixed to a plurality of plastic deformable attachment parts provided on the base plate and the cover pieces are completely separated and opened outward owing to the expansion of the airbag.
2. (original): An airbag device according to claim 1, wherein the airbag cover has a fixed part fixed directly or indirectly to the base plate substantially at a central portion thereof.
3. (previously presented): An airbag device according to claim 2, wherein the airbag cover has tear lines at the inner face thereof for opening each of the cover pieces outward while leaving the fixed part, and the tear lines comprise a tear line having substantially a circular shape

for partitioning the fixed part and each of the cover pieces, and a plurality of tear lines extending outward from the tear line having the circular shape in the radial direction thereof.

4. (previously presented): An airbag device according to Claim 2, wherein the fixed part of the airbag cover is provided with a decorative member.

5. (previously presented): An airbag device according to Claim 1, wherein attachment parts are disposed along the peripheral edge of the base plate.

6. (currently amended): An airbag device comprising:
an inflator for generating gas;
an airbag being expandable by gas generated in the inflator;
an airbag cover for folding the airbag to house the folded airbag therein and openable at the time of expansion of the airbag, wherein said airbag cover includes a plurality of cover pieces;

a base plate having an opening at a central portion in which the inflator is fitted;
a connection member; and
a cushion plate for clamping and holding the airbag between itself and the base plate,
wherein the cushion plate has concave parts on its front face for housing a clamping and holding part of the connection member, and a central portion of the airbag cover being opened by tear lines at the time of expansion of the airbag is connected to the connection member which is clamped and held by the base plate and the cushion plate together with the airbag, and the

connection member holds the central portion of the airbag cover at the time of spread of the airbag bag-when the airbag is expanded forward by gas from the inflator while getting across the central portion of the airbag cover,

wherein the tear lines delineate the central portion from the cover pieces, so that when the tear lines tear, the cover pieces are completely detached from the central portion so as to move outwardly away from the central portion.

7. (original): An airbag device according to Claim 6, wherein the connection member has holes or recesses, and the concave parts of the cushion plate have protrusions capable of engaging with the holes or the recesses.

8. (original): An airbag device according to Claim 6, wherein the connection member is fastened and fixed to the concave parts of the cushion plate together by a bolt for fixing the inflator.

9. (previously presented): An airbag device according to Claim 6, wherein the connection part is made of a metal member.

10. (previously presented): An airbag device comprising:
an inflator for generating gas;
an airbag being expandable by gas generated in the inflator;
an airbag cover for covering the airbag; and

a base plate for fixing the airbag and the airbag cover,
wherein the airbag cover is openable outward at the time of expansion of the airbag caused by gas from the inflator, wherein the airbag cover has a fixed part fixed directly or indirectly to the base plate substantially at a central portion thereof, and a plurality of cover pieces formed around the fixed part, and

wherein the airbag has a cylindrical part which is restrained by the fixed part at the time of expansion of the airbag so as to be expandable forward across the fixed part, and

wherein the fixed part of the airbag cover has a concave part for guiding the airbag when it spreads,

wherein the cylindrical part has a tip side opening part having an opening diameter that is smaller than a maximum outer diameter of the concave part of the airbag cover, thereby causing the tip side opening part of the cylindrical part to be held by the concave part of the airbag cover so as not to come out when the airbag spreads.

11. (previously presented): An airbag device according to Claim 10, wherein a group of tear lines for partitioning the cover pieces formed at and around the fixed part are provided on an inner face of the airbag cover, and the cover pieces are openable outward by the tear lines when the airbag spreads.

12. (original): An airbag device according to Claim 11, wherein the tear lines are formed as grooves provided on the inner face of the airbag cover, and the tear line formed around the fixed part has parts which are cut beforehand.

13. (previously presented): An airbag device according to Claim 10, wherein the cover pieces of the airbag cover are openable outward around the fixed part, and separated from one another after the spread of the airbag.

14. (previously presented): An airbag device according to Claim 10, wherein a decorative member or a horn apparatus is housed in the concave part.

15. (previously presented): An airbag device according to Claim 12, wherein a decorative member is housed in the concave part and covers the cut parts of the tear lines formed around the concave part of the airbag cover so as not to be visible from outside.

16. (previously presented): An airbag device comprising:
an inflator for generating gas;
an airbag being expandable by gas generated in the inflator;
an airbag cover for covering the airbag; and
a fixed plate for fixing the airbag cover,
wherein the airbag has an opening hole part formed by aligning at least two pieces of base cloths with each other, each piece of base cloth having hole parts displaced in position from each other, and wherein the airbag cover has a concave part fixed directly or indirectly to the base plate substantially at a central portion thereof, and the concave part guides the hole parts of

the opening hole part when the airbag is expanded by the gas generated by the inflator, so as to cause the hole parts to change in positional relation with respect to each other.

17. (previously presented): An airbag device according to Claim 16, wherein the concave part is separated by tear lines formed around or inside the concave part at the time of expansion of the airbag.

18. (original): An airbag device according to Claim 16, wherein the concave part is connected to the airbag cover by at least one linking part which is separable with ease.

Claims 19-20. (canceled).

21. (previously presented): An airbag device according to Claim 16, wherein a decorative member or a horn apparatus is housed in the concave part.